
	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE			
	OPERATIONS			
	FIRE SCENE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE – POST INCIDENT APPARATUS DECONTAMINATION			
	Effective: 12/Feb/2019	Revised: 28/Dec/2020	S.O.G. #: O-342.3	

1.0 Purpose



- 1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the highest degree of firefighter safety by eliminating as many hazards as possible on fire apparatus after an incident through proper vehicle decontamination.
- 1.2 Fire apparatus can become contaminated while operating on incident scenes. Primary and/or secondary contamination can occur on the exterior of the apparatus or on the interior of the cabs. Fire gases leaching into the apparatus, particulate matter depositing on surfaces, or direct contact with contaminated tools and gear can cause residual contamination to be carried back to the stations. The thorough cleaning of fire apparatus, tools, and gear will help to reduce the likelihood of secondary contamination from hazardous compounds and carcinogens into the stations or onto personnel while normally riding in apparatus.

2.0 Responsibility

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all Highland Park Fire Department personnel to understand and follow the information documented in this Standard Operating Guideline. Supervisors are responsible for insuring that personnel maintain compliance with this guideline.

3.0 Procedure

- 3.1 Fire apparatus and tools used on the fire scene must be cleaned to the degree with which they were contaminated.
- 3.2 Units that were closer in to the incident where personnel and equipment were used more heavily will take additional time and effort to reduce the contamination levels than apparatus that were only used sparingly, or that were only ever staged.
- 3.3 Individual companies are responsible for decontaminating their individual units and equipment when used on a single company incident. On a larger multi-company incidents the Incident Commander is responsible for establishing and following through on units decontaminating gear, tools, and equipment on scene and facilitating the return to service and cleaning of units once back in quarters
- 3.4 On-Scene Cleaning Procedures:
 - 3.4.1 Apparatus that was directly involved in suppression, salvage, overhaul, and/or investigative operations shall gross decontaminate the exterior of the apparatus, as well as the tools and equipment off of that apparatus while on scene.
 - 3.4.2 This gross decontamination process on scene includes hose, appliances, power tools, ladders, hand tools, etc. that were used in the incident. As much as possible, all post incident debris shall be removed from the apparatus and equipment while on site.

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- 3.4.3 Hoses that were heavily used and require additional cleaning shall be transported back to the station, soap cleaned and hung to dry there. If the hose was only wet, or laying on the street it can be hosed off as needed on scene and repacked on the apparatus. Consider using the pick-up truck for transportation of hose if needed.
- 3.4.4 Any additional item that requires further, more specific detailed cleaning shall be taken back to the station for further cleaning where appropriate. If the item cannot be satisfactorily grossly decontaminated the IC should be made aware, and a decision made by them as to how to handle that item.
- 3.4.5 Prior to returning to quarters place a temporary seat cover on the seats where contaminated turnout gear may come in contact with. Once back in quarters and the turnout gear is removed from the cab, remove and dispose of the temporary seat cover.

3.5 Return to Quarters Cleaning Procedures:



- 3.5.1 The primary cleaning of the apparatus and tools should have been done at the incident scene. If the weather did not allow for this then they shall be cleaned at the station either exterior of the bay or at last resort in the bay with follow-up cleaning of that area done once completed.
- 3.5.2 Once the primary cleaning is complete, a more detailed secondary cleaning can take place if required in the bay while utilizing appropriate PPE to include barrier gloves and safety glasses at a minimum. Masks and/or other PPE may be required on a case by case basis.

3.5.3 Enclosed tool compartments that have been contaminated:

- 3.5.3.1 Empty the compartment of any tools. Remove any large debris with a small broom or pooled liquids with dry rags. Wipe down all surfaces with a damp cloth using station surface cleaner.
- 3.5.3.2 Hand tools can be cleaned with soapy water, rinsed and dried.
- 3.5.3.3 Cleaning of the power tools should follow the manufacturer recommendations. However, these recommendations will probably not address fire contamination specific cleaning. Therefore, wiping them off with a soapy rag will accomplish the desired effect.

3.5.4 The interior passenger compartment:

- 3.5.4.1 Vacuum the seats, air vents, floors, cracks and crevices that dust and particulates can settle. Wipe down all surfaces with a damp cloth utilizing the station surface cleaner. Make sure to check any soft/porous surfaces such as seats and seatbelts.

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- 3.5.5 Any defect or damage found while cleaning any tools should be fixed (or replaced) prior to placing them back on the apparatus.
- 3.5.6 Companies that require more detailed cleaning will take longer to get back in-service. Consider keeping recall personnel longer to assist with the cleaning procedures.

4.0 References and Supporting Documents

4.1 In Station Cleaning Supplies

Approved:  Fire Chief